



WORKSHOP ON CHAIN LINK FENCING PROHIBITION ORDINANCE

Community & Economic Development Department

Cultural Heritage Board

Agenda Item: 8

June 17, 2026

BACKGROUND

- February 9, 2026 – CM Falcone introduced to LUC
 - Intended to improve compatibility of materials
 - Work with local groups for grants to remove/hide existing
- Directed staff to get CHB feedback



EXISTING GUIDELINES

2) New fences should be in character with those seen historically:

Appropriate Front Yard Fence

- Unpainted wood fences are generally inappropriate for front yards.
- Front yard fencing should be low (less than three feet in height) and openwork. Wood picket fencing might be appropriate to Craftsman or Victorian styles. Traditionally detailed wrought-iron fencing tends to work with Victorian styles. Simple or elaborate wrought-iron fencing might be appropriate for Spanish Colonial Revival style structures.
- Rear yard fencing for privacy, such as opaque wood fencing, may be appropriate.
- Chain link should not be used in locations prominently visible from the street.

3) Appropriate fence materials are:

- Finished wood pickets - Color or texture to be consistent with architecture
- Finished solid wood - Color and texture to be consistent with architecture
- Wrought/ornamental iron

POTENTIAL AMENDMENT TEXT

19.550.70 – Historic properties and cultural resources

- A. Fences, walls, and landscape materials for cultural resources shall be designed to comply with Title 20 (Cultural Resources) of the Riverside Municipal Code, the Cultural Heritage Board's Design Guidelines, and district-specific guidelines.
- B. Installation of new or replacement chain link fencing is prohibited at Cultural Resources as defined by Title 20, including within historic districts and neighborhood conservation areas
 - a. Exceptions:
 - i. Chain link fencing may be allowed in historic districts with a period of significance post-World War II, subject to review under applicable historic preservation design review standards.
 - ii. On large lots greater than one-half acre, chain link fencing may be permitted in areas not visible from the public right-of-way, subject to review for compatibility with historic character.



RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Cultural Heritage Board (CHB) hold a workshop to discuss and provide feedback on a potential ordinance to amend Title 19 of the Riverside Municipal Code, prohibiting the use of chain link fencing on historic properties.